

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 21-26 are pending in the present application. Newly presented Claims 21, 23 and 26 recite “post rinsing after the pretreating” which finds support for instance in the specification at page 17, line 25 to page 18, line 13 and page 20, line 12. Newly presented Claims 22, 24 and 25 recite “cationic electrocoating”, which finds support, for instance, in the specification at page 1, line 10, page 18, line 23 and page 20, lines 19-29. The newly presented claims do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 6,312,812 to Hauser et al. (hereinafter also referred to as “Hauser”). Hauser does not render obvious claims 1 and 6. In particular, Hauser fails to disclose or suggest “an amino group-containing silane coupling agent” as recited in the claims. Contrary to the assertion in the office action, the “triethoxy silyl propylaminobis (methylenephosphonic) acid ester of bisphenol A”, which was disclosed in Hauser, does not correspond to “an amino group-containing silane coupling agent” in the present invention.

The “triethoxy silyl propylaminobis (methylenephosphonic) acid ester of bisphenol A” was suggested by Hauser as one of the materials reactive with the epoxy therein. For instance, as described in claim 1 of Hauser, the composition therein contains a reaction product of at least one epoxy-functional material or derivative thereof and at least one material selected from the group consisting of phosphorus-containing materials, amine-containing materials, sulfur-containing materials, and mixtures thereof. The “triethoxy silyl propylaminobis (methylenephosphonic) acid ester of bisphenol A” is at first reacted with epoxy compound, and then the reaction product is used as one of the compositions.

Such a reaction product does not encompass the coupling agent employed in the present invention. In Hauser, the silane compound is contained only as a unit that forms a part of the epoxy resin. That can not be interpreted as a silane coupling agent.

No other suggestion exists in Hauser that could be interpreted as an amino group-containing silane coupling agent. Therefore, Hauser does not disclose the addition of an amino group-containing silane coupling agent.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event, the examiner believes that another interview would advance the prosecution of this application in any way the undersigned attorney is available at the phone number noted below.

Please charge any fee that is due with this response to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00311-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Burton A. Amernick/  
Burton A. Amernick  
Registration No.: 24,852  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 331-7111 (Phone)  
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant